The British War Office Receives Intelligence of Another Defeat in South Africa.

THEY LOST ELEVEN OF THEIR GUNS.

A Sharp Engagement Took Place at Chievely Camp in Which the Boers Had the Best of it.

Gen. Buller Was Attempting to Cross the Tugela River-Finding It Impossible He Ordered a Retirement.

London, Dec. 16 .- The war office has received a dispatch announcing that Gen. Buller has met with a serious reverse, losing ten guns.

Gen. Buller was attempting to cross the Tugela river. Finding it impossible to effect his object he ordered a retirement in order to avoid greater losses. He left 11 guns behind.

The following is the text of Gen. Buller's dispatch, announcing his re-

"Buller to Lansdowne, Chievely Camp, Dec. 15, 6:20 p. m .- I regret to report a serious reverse. I moved in full strength from our camp near Chievely at 4 o'clock this morning There are two fordable places in the Tugela river, and it was my intention to force a passage through at one of them. They are about two miles apart.

calmness and redoubled efforts to retrieve the position. This latest check is regarded as the most serious event in Great Britain's military history

since the Indian mutiny,

The Standard says: "Gen. Buller's
dispatch is deplorable reading. It is the now familiar story of concealed Boers and of British troops marching up blindly, almost to the very muzzles of the enemy's rifles. It can not be doubted that the moral effect will be to aggravate our difficulties over the whole field of operation.

"The country has discovered with annoyance and surprise that subduing the Boer farmers is about the hardest work we have entered upon since the Indian mutiny. Their commandants have shown themselves able to give our generals useful, but expensive lessons in modern tactics."

The Times says: "Since the days of the Indian mutiny the nation has not been confronted with so painful and anxious a situation. Plainly Gen. Buller's advance is paralyzed for the moment as completely as Lord Methuen's and Gen. Gatacre's.

The depression over the defeat of Great Britain's trusted and idolized commander is all the greater as, during the last 48 bours, there had been Thursday the war office alowed it to be understood that the position of affairs in Natal was entirely satisfactory. The reaction is all the more pronounced on this account.

THE WHEAT CROP.

The Statistician of the Agricultural Department Makes His Report to His Chief.

Washington, Dec. 16 .- The statisti-"My intention was to force one or cian of the department of agriculture

GEN. GATACRE'S SURPRISE AND ROUT.



ONY The location of Gen. Gatacre's column in its advance into the Orange Free State, in cooperation with Gen. Methuen's advance to the relief of Kimberley. Stormberg Junction, where Gatacre's force was routed, is on the direct line to Burghersdorp. Bloemfontein and Pretoria.

the other with one brigade, supported by a central brigade. Gen. Hart was to attack the left drift, Gen. Hildyard the right road and Gen. Lytleton was to take the center and to support either. Early in the day I saw that Gen. Hart would not be able to force a passage, and I directed him to withdraw. He had, however, attacked with great gallantry, and his leading battalion, the Connaught Rangers, I fear, tions. suffered a great deal. Col. I. G. Brooke was seriously wounded

"I then ordered Gen. Hildyard to advance, which he did, his leading regiment, the East Surrey, occupied Colenso Station and the houses near the bridge. At that moment I heard that the whole artillery I had sent to support the attack, the 14th and 66th field batteries and six naval 12-pounder quick-firers, under Col Long, had advanced close to the river in Long's desire to be within effective range. It proved to be full of the enemy, who suddenly opened a galling fire at close range, killing all their horses, and the gunners were compelled to stand to their guns. Some of the wagon teams got shelter for troops in a donga and desperate efforts were being made to bring out the field

"The fire, however, was too severe and only two were saved by Capt. Schofield and some drivers whose names I will furnish.

"Another most gallant attempt with three teams was made by an officer whose name I will obtain. Of the 18 horses 13 were killed, and as several drivers were wounded, I would not allow another attempt, as it seemed that they would be a shell mark, sacrificing life to a gallant attempt to force the passage. Unsupported by artillery I directed the troops to withdraw, which they did in good order.

"Throughout the day a considerable force of the enemy was pressing on my right flank, but it was kept back by mounted men under Lord Dundonald and part of Gen. Barton's brigade. The day was intensely hot and most trying on the troops, whose conduct was excellent. We have abandoned 10 guns and lost by shell fire 1. The losses in Gen. Hart's brigade, I fear, are heavy, although the proportion of severely wounded, I hope, is not large. The 14th and 66th field batteries also suffered severe losses. We have retired

to our camp at Chievely." London, Dec. 16 .- The news of Gen. Buller's reverse was received so late that morning newspaper comment Saturday is confined to perfunctory expressions of extreme regret and disappointment, and of the necessity of | 56th year.

reports the wheat crop of the United States for 1899 at 547,300,000 bushels, or 12.3 bushel per acre. The production of winter wheat is placed at 291,700,000 bushels, and that of spring wheat at 255,600,000 bushels. Every important wheat-growing state has been visited by special agents of the department, and the changes in acreage are the result of their investiga-

The newly seeded area of winter wheat is estimated at 30,150,000 acres, which is about 200,000 acres greater than that sown in the fall of 1898. The sowing of wheat is still going on in California and some of the southern states and the foregoing estimate is subject to correction. The average of condition is 97.1.

The acreage sown with winter rye is estimated at .76 per cent. less than that of last year. The average of condition is 98.2 per cent.

The compilation of the average returns from individual farmers is approaching completion. Any slight changes that may be called for in the average yield per acre of corn, oats, barley and other crops as published October 10, will be made at an early date, and the final figures will then

Seventh Day Adventist Convicted. Rome, Ga., Dec. 16,-J. P. Eaton, a seventh day adventist, was convicted \$80,000. here Friday of a misdemeanor. He was charged with cultivating a truck garden on Sunday. On trial he stated that the scriptures make it sinful to labor on what is "usually known as Saturday." Eaton challenged any one to prove the legal Sabbath is Sunday. Sentence was suspended until January. and Eaton was permitted to give

Three Run Down by a Train.

Marfa, Tex., Dec. 16 .- A carriage containing Mrs. Lucy Duncan and Mrs. John Krupp was run down by a Southern Pacific freight train Friday. Both were instantly killled. daughter of Mrs. Dunean was fatally

Eclipse of the Moon.

New York, Dec. 16 .- An eclipse of the moon Saturday evening is promised for those parts of North America and Europe where the weather is favorable for observation. The eclipse will be total to all appearances.

Ex-President Dros Dead.

Berne, Switzerland, Dec. 16 .- M. Numa Droz, the distinguished Swiss statesman, and former president of the confederation, died Friday in his

Closing Day of the General De- & Son. bate on the Financial Bill in the House Friday.

IT WAS OF EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST.

Sharp Tilt Between Representatives Wheeler and Berry Over the Recent Election in Kentucky.

Practical Completion of the Senate Committees for the Fifty-Sixth Congress Aunounced Officially Friday.

Washington, Dec. 16.-Friday the practical completion of the senate committees for the 56th congress was announced officially by Senator Aldrich (R. I.) He presented to the senate an order fixing the committees, and it was adopted without dissent. A reports of the relief of Ladysmith. few vacancies in the minority representation are yet to be filled. They will be disposed of in a few days. No other business of importance was transacted by the senate.

Senator Foster, of Washington, Friday introduced a bill extending the M. C. Hutchison, M. C. Russell & Son, John W. bounty provision of the homestead law to the soldiers who served in the B. Roper, G. W. Rogers & Co., J. T. Kackley & war with Spain and who have served Co., Henry W. Rasp, McClanshan & Shea, C. or are serving now in the Philip-

Soon after the senate convened Friday, on motion of Mr Hale (Me.) it was agreed to adjourn from Friday till next Monday.

The closing day of the general debate on the financial bill in the house proved to be one of exceptional interest. At the outset a sharp personal colloquy occurred between Representatives Wheeler and Berry of Kentucky, over the recent Kentucky election, and the charges growing out of it. Considerable feeling was shown. Later in the day Mr. Bailey (Tex.). until recently the democratic floor leader, received close attention in an hour's speech, vigorously presenting the democratic view, and eulogizing the time-honored and undying demoeratic organization. In marked contrast with Mr. Bailey's utterances Mr. Scudder (N. Y.), who followed him, announced that as a democrat he believed in the gold standard and would vote for it. Mr. Payne (N. Y.) and Mr. Dalzell (Pa.) also spoke during the day. The debate under the five minute rule occurs Saturday.

Representative Elliott (S. C.), introduced a bill for the building of a new eruiser, to be named the Charleston, to take the place of the cruiser of that name recently lost in the Philippines. The following were among the other house bills introduced: By Mr. Knox (Mass.), for civil government in Alaska; by Mr. Hull (Ia.), for the reward of distinguished service in the war with Spain; by Mr. Linney (N.C.). o reduce the tax on distilled spirits to 70 cents per gallon.

At the evening session Mr. Clayton (dem., N. Y.), announced his intenion to vote for the financial bill. In response to unfavorable references which had been made to gold demoerats Mr. Clayton said there were many of that belief in New York and the number was growing constantly. Others who spoke for the bill were Messrs. Sulloway (N. H.), Bingham (Pa.), Mudd (Md.) and Minor (Wis.).

Those who spoke aginst the bill were Messrs. Robinson (Neb.), Thomis (N. C.), Lloyd (Mo.), Snodgrass Tenn.), Rucker (Mo.), Robb (Mo.), Davenport (Pa.), Lambs (Va.), Caldwell (III.), Stephens (Tex.), Gordon (O.) and Neville (Neb.).

At 10:15 the house adjourned.

Goes to Yale University.

New Haven, Ct., Dec. 16.-The contest instituted by Robert H. Waters, of Newburyport, Mass., against the will of his uncle, the late Prof. Othniel C. Marsh, of Yale university, has been settled, and the entire estate, involving between \$75,000 and \$100,000 goes to Yale university. Waters contest was voluntarily withdrawn.

An Heir to a Fortune.

New York, Dec. 16.-Thomas B. Albin, of Patchogue, L. I., has been notified by California attorneys that he is one of the heirs to a fortune of \$2,-000,000, left by a cousin named Louis

San Francisco, Dec. 16.-Mrs. Nettie F. Craven, who claims to be the widow of ex-United States Senator James G. Fair, won a partial victory in Judge Trout's court Friday, when the court decided that she may prosecute her claims for a family allowance of \$5,-000 a month.

Jenious Man's Deeds.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 16.-Adam Crist Friday deliberately shot his wife fatally, killed his 8-year-old son, seriously wounded a second son, aged 5, and put a bullet through his own brain, killing himself. Jealousy is the only motive assigned for the crime.

British Casualties at Magersfontein. London, Dec. 16 .- The list of easualties among the commissioned offieers and men in the fight at Magersfontein, just issued, shows 55 killed, 253 wounded (21 severely) and 76 missing. This, however, is apparently not a complete list.

Trap and Wing Shot Dead.

Beloit, Wis., Dec. 16 .- John A. Ruble, famous as a trap and wing shot, who has participated in all great shot-gun contests of the country, died Friday. not afford to neglect to give it a trial. Price

LIST OF DONORS."

Names of Those Who Have Subscribed to the Tobacco Fair.

Below we give a list of citizens and firms that have contributed to the Tobacco Fair and will do what they can to make it a grand success. Quite a number of our generous citizens have not yet been solicited. All should avail themselves of this epportunity to help forward this important enterprise. Subscriptions range from \$1 to \$25. Hand your names to THE LEDGER or to John C. Adamsson, J. B. Russell, W. H. Means, J. W. Fitzgerald or John Duley. Subscriptions will be acknowledged through these columns:

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As Administrator of William Hunter, deceased, I will sell on the premises, on

Saturday, December 16, 1899, at 10 o'clock, a. m., the farm of said William Hunter, consisting of

108 Acres!

Albin, who died about a year ago in California, in his 88th year. Thomas B. Albin's share is said to be about \$80,000.

Mrs. Craven Wins a Partial Victory.

Situated on the Murphysville Turnpike, three miles from Washington and two miles from Murphysville. The place is conveniently located, is well improved and under good fence. Terms will be made known on day of sale. Possession will be given on the 10th of March, 1900. J. E. HUNTER, Administrator.

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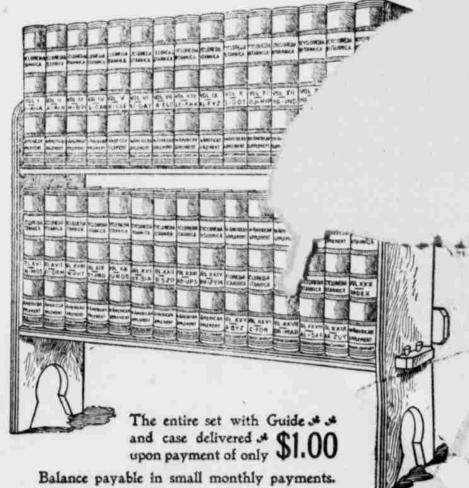
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